

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-11 and 13 are presently pending in this application, Claim 12 having been canceled, and Claim 8 having been amended by the present amendment.

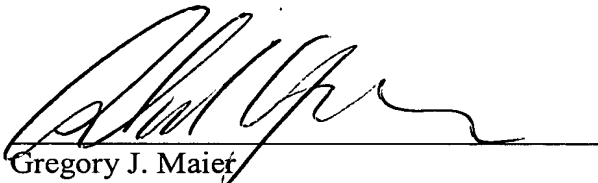
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nanbu et al. (U.S. Patent 5,565,034) in view of Fischli et al. (U.S. Patent 5,690,995). However, Claims 9, 11 and 13 were indicated as allowed, and Claim 12 was indicated as including allowable subject matter.

First, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 9, 11 and 13 have been allowed and that Claim 12 includes allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter recited in Claim 12, and Applicants respectfully request that Claim 12 be canceled without prejudice. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to resolve remaining issues, if any, and expedite the prosecution of the present application.

In light of the prior indication of allowable subject matter and in view of the amendments presented above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and thus the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

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